

THE UNITED STATES

Critical Thinking Skills Activity (continued)

criminals are not given treatment or prepared for their return to the community. This is lunacy!

The United States needs to change the way it views criminal offenders whose main problem is alcohol and drug abuse and addiction. It must answer the call to identify these offenders. It must assess what is needed for treatment and training; and it must help them become productive citizens and responsible parents. If we answer that call, we will save billions of dollars, reduce crime, and save thousands of individuals.

SOURCE: Joseph A. Califano, Jr. Adapted from the article, "A Punishment-Only Prison Story," in *America Magazine*, (February 21, 1998).

1. According to the author, why are prison populations increasing so much?

 2. What is the author's point of view about what can be done to help reduce the prison population?

 3. What is your point of view about the author's solution? Do you agree or disagree with the author? Explain.

- C. Since 1980, fewer violent criminals have gone to prison.
 - D. Drug abusers should be sent out of the country.
 2. With which of the following views would the author NOT agree?
 - A. Alcohol addiction is a serious problem in the United States.
 - B. Alcohol and drug abusers are hopelessly lost and should be kept in prison for as long as the law allows.
 - C. Rehabilitation of substance abusers would save money and reduce crime.
 - D. The present approach to alcohol and drug abusers needs major change.
 3. With which of the following views would the author most likely agree?
 - A. Harsh punishment of substance abusers is the best way to discourage people from committing crimes.
 - B. Nonviolent substance abusers should be separated from the rest of the prison population until their sentence is completed.
 - C. Substance abusers should be treated for their addictions and given access to training programs.
 - D. Substance abusers should be given no more than one glass of wine at dinner.

Practicing the Skill

Directions: Reread the article above. Then answer the following questions by circling the letter of the correct answer.

1. With which of the following views would the author most likely agree?
 - A. Alcohol is linked to more violent crimes than drugs.
 - B. Heroin and cocaine are the cause of most violent crimes.